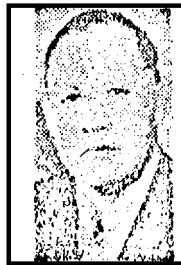


CPYRIGHT

Allen-Scott Report

More Targets For U.S. Bombs?

By ROBERT S. ALLEN
and PAUL SCOTT



Mr. Allen

WASHINGTON — The continuing deployment of Soviet surface-to-air missiles in North Viet Nam is causing growing uneasiness among President Johnson's military and intelligence advisers.

With more SA-2 missile sites now in North Viet Nam than in Cuba, the military - intelligence experts are concerned that the missile build-up may be a prelude to the introduction of large numbers of Soviet jet bombers and ground - to - ground medium range ballistic missiles.

These missiles and bombers could present a formidable threat to the security of U.S. troops and aircraft in South Viet Nam because of their concentration in strategic areas.

This alarming possibility was ordered probed by Central Intelligence Director Raborn, whose agency is in charge of all intelligence in Viet Nam, after photo reconnaissance flights discovered at least 32 missile sites in North Viet Nam compared to 25 in Cuba.

On receiving this intelligence, Admiral Raborn immediately began asking questions seeking the reasons behind the increasing SAM sites in the same way his predecessor did prior to the Cuban missile crisis.

In late September 1962, John McCone, then CIA head, started to seriously question his agency's reports that Russia would never send ballistic missiles to Cuba. Citing numerous shipments of ground - to - air missiles, McCone kept demanding: "Why is Russia sending so many SA-2 missiles to Cuba?"

By mid-October McCone got his answer and the world a major U.S.-Soviet confrontation. The SAMs were installed to provide a protective ring for 42 1,200-mile-range ballistic missiles and 36 medium-range jet bombers being readied for operational use.

As in the period preceding the Cuban missile crisis, the number and menace of Russian missiles in North Viet Nam apparently are being underestimated by U.S. officials.

In the opinion of military-intelligence experts, hard circumstantial evidence exists that the Russians are again preparing to test the U.S. by installing a considerable number of ballistic missiles and bombers in North Viet Nam.

Since last July high-flying U-2 reconnaissance planes have photographed at least 14 900-mile-range Badger bombers on airfields within the Hanoi-Haiphong complex — a 100-mile-square sanctuary that is off limits to U.S. bombers.

U.S. experts believe the number of bombers may be as high as 30. This estimate is based on information supplied by foreign businessmen who witnessed the unloading of large-hatched ships that arrived at Haiphong, North Viet Nam's main port, last month from Russia.

Ships with large hatches were used to sneak bombers and missiles into Cuba in 1962. The same type vessel hauled those weapons out of Cuba under threat of U.S. military action.

In addition to the bombers, the North Vietnamese have received some 30 MIG-21 jets. This latest-model fighter could be a match for the planes the U.S. is using against targets in North Viet Nam. The MIG-21 is roughly comparable to the F-104 interceptor. Around 50 older-model MIG-15s and MIG-17s are stationed on fields near Hanoi.

The Soviet's missile intentions are proving difficult to evaluate because of the drastic restrictions the White House has placed on reconnaissance flights over the Hanoi - Haiphong area.

The Joint Chiefs of Staff have requested a flight a day over this 100-mile-wide sanctuary, but only two missions a month are

CPYRIGHT

being permitted. This gives U.S. intelligence limited opportunity to detect the arrival of ground to-air missiles.

So far, the photo planes have spotted two large trailer-type trucks similar to those used in Cuba to transport medium-range ballistic missiles from the docks to launching sites.

Also uncovered was the construction of large concrete bases at two SAM sites. These "hard bases" are the type used for ballistic missile launchers and are not required for the SAMs.

Even more disturbing are reports that the Russians are introducing semi-mobile 900-mile ballistic missiles into North Viet Nam.

These missiles, capable of dropping large nuclear or conventional warheads on U. S. bases as far south as Saigon, are loaded on tank-like carriers that serve as their own mobile launchers. Several of these tank-carriers, without missiles, have been spotted on roads in North Viet Nam in recent weeks.

With President Johnson recuperating at his ranch in Texas, the Joint Chiefs of Staff are concerned that the Russians may try to take advantage of his absence from Washington to sneak ballistic missiles into North Viet Nam.